

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6700

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0941

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PEPR, SU, ET, SO

SUBJECT: SUDANESE SUGGESTION RE OGADEN

1. DURING CONVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS (SEPTELS) MARCH 2 WITH IZZ EL-DIN SAYED, HE COMMENTED ON SITUATION IN OGADEN AND SUGGESTED POSSIBLE WAY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS DIPLOMATICALLY. SAYED HAS BEEN CHAIRMAN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND IS WELL INFORMED ON SUDANESE FOREIGN POLICIES. IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM HE CLEARLY WAS NOT RPT NOT SPEAKING BEHALF SUDANGOV, BUT WE CAN ASSUME HIS VIEWS REFLECT THINKING GOING ON AT HIGHEST LEVELS SUDANGOV.

2. AFTER DISCUSSING RECENT HISTORY REGARDING OGADEN INCLUDING UN AND OAU EFFORTS RESOLVE PROBLEM, SAYED SAID NOTHING WOULD EVER BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THESE ORGANS. HE CLAIMED SIAD BARRE WOULD NOT RPT NOT WISH TO GO TO UN WHERE HE WOULD BE CHARGED WITH AGGRESSION. NOR, ARGUED SAYED, WOULD HE GO TO OAU. THEREFORE, SOME MEANS MUST BE FOUND ACCEPTABLE TO SIAD BARRE THAT WOULD PROVIDE COVER FOR HIS DIGNIFIED RETREAT FROM HIS UNHELPFUL POSITIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, VIS-A-VIS KENYA, THAT WOULD ALLOW OGADEN

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PROBLEM TO GET OFF DEAD CENTER AND BE RESOLVED DIPLOMATICALLY.

3. ACCORDING TO SAYED EVENTUAL UN ENDORSEMENT WOULD BE WELCOME, BUT INITIALLY IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL FOR US, WESTERN EUROPEANS AND SELECTED AFRICANS TO FORM COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO OGADEN AND CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS

WITH PARTIES. HE ENVISAGES THIS GROUP, WHICH IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY COULD INCLUDE USSR, AS ATTEMPTING RESOLVE THE SEVERAL RELATED HORN PROBLEMS INCLUDING THAT BETWEEN SOMALIA AND KENYA. IT WOULD ALSO FORM CORE GROUP WHICH ONCE FIGHTING ENDED WOULD PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PARTIES WHO WILL DESPERATELY NEED MASSIVE HELP.

4. COMMENT: SAYED IS SUGGESTING A SPECIAL GROUP THAT WOULD AVOID UN OR OAU LABELS, WHICH HE CONSIDERS ANATHEMA TO SIAD BARRE, AND WOULD BE LARGE ENOUGH WITH A BROAD ENOUGH MANDATE THAT WOULD ALLOW SIAD BARRE TO MAKE FIRST STEPS THUS STARTING MOVEMENT ON PROBLEM. SAYED'S OBJECTIVES, BEYOND STOPPING FIGHTING, ARE TO GET SOVIETS OUT OF HORN AND TO GET WEST, ESPECIALLY US, MORE DEEPLY INTO PICTURE. HE REALIZES US CANNOT ACT ALONE OR MILITARILY AND THEREFORE WANTS SEVERAL SELECTED INTERESTED PARTIES INVOLVED AS WELL. IN SHORT, HE IS ARGUING FOR US ROLE ANALOGOUS TO THAT WHICH WE PLAYING IN RHODESIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE, OF COURSE, HESITATE ENDORSE SAYED'S PROPOSAL WHICH, IN ANY CASE, NEEDS FULLER ELABORATION, BUT WE THOUGHT ADDRESSEES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING KIND OF THINKING REGARDING PROBLEM WHICH EXISTS HERE.

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